

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Before claim 1, change ~~Claims~~ to WE CLAIM:

Cancel claims 1-23 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and substitute new claims 24-47 therefor:

Claims 1-23 (cancelled)

24. (new) Screwing tool (1) having a grip (2) and a shank (3), which is received removably in a cavity (4) open toward an end of the grip (2) and which at its free end has an actuating portion (5); wherein the shank (3) is retained in a position of use with the shank being fixed in terms of rotation on the grip without sliding in the axial direction, by means of a retaining element (14) associated with the grip (2); wherein the retaining element (14) can be displaced into a removal position by displacement of an actuating member (6) in order for the shank to be removed from the grip (2); in which tool, in a stored position, a large part of the shank (3) is located in the cavity (4), where it is held releasably, wherein the shank, in the stored position, is held by means of releasable holding means (H) separate from the retaining element (14), it being possible, during release of the holding means, for that part of the shank (3) which is located in the cavity (4), apart from a holding portion (H) of the shank (3) associated with the

fixed shank end, to be moved out of the cavity (4) into the position of use onto a stop (A) formed by the remaining element (14) through the application of force.

25. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 24, wherein the actuating member associated with the grip (2) is displaced into a release position for releasing the holding means (H), and has the form of a sleeve (6).

26. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 25, wherein the stop (A) is formed by the retaining element (14) which can be moved into the removal position by displacement of the actuating sleeve (6) to beyond the release position.

27. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 24, wherein the retaining element (14) which forms the stop can be moved into the removal position by displacement of the actuating member (6) to beyond the release position.

28. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 24, wherein a force required to extend the shank (3) into the position of use is applied by a spring (24), which is stressed as the shank (3) moves into the storage position and is supported against the base of the cavity (4).

29. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 24, wherein the stop (A) or the retaining element (14) is formed by at least one blocking ball (14) which enters a blocking recess at the shank end.

30. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 29, wherein the blocking ball (14) is located in a window (12) in the cavity wall and interacts with a locking sleeve (15) which is spring-loaded in the axial direction.

31. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 30, wherein the blocking ball (14), which is located in the window (12) in the storage position, and while the shank (3) is being extended, is spring-loaded in the radial direction by a boundary edge (30) of the locking sleeve (15).

32. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 29, wherein the blocking recess is an annular neck (31) with an axial length which is greater than the diameter of the blocking ball.

33. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 24, wherein the holding means (H) is at least one latching ball (13) which interacts with a corner cutout (29) of the polygonal shank (3).

34. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 33, wherein the latching ball (13) is acted on by an oblique flank (28) of an actuating sleeve (6) which is spring-loaded in the axial direction.

35. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 33, wherein the actuating member (6) has the form of a sleeve, and the latching ball (13), both in the stored position and in the position of use, is located in a corner clearance (29) of the shank (3), to be released by axial displacement of the actuating sleeve (6), in order to axially retain the shank (3).

36. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 35, further comprising a rear stop shoulder (20') of the actuating sleeve (6) which, during axial displacement of the actuating sleeve (6), slides a locking sleeve (15) from its locking position into a release position which allows a blocking ball (14) to be displaced in the radial direction.

37. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 36, wherein the stop shoulder (20') is formed by an annular portion (20) which has a compression spring (16) associated with the actuating sleeve (6), the annular portion engaging over the spring and into a cavity (21) of which the blocking ball (14) can be displaced in the release position.

38. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 30, wherein the locking sleeve (15), in a locking position, is supported against an annular collar (18) which is the abutment for an actuating sleeve spring (16).

39. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 24, wherein the grip cavity (4) is defined by a tube (7) which receives the shank (3) and has a polygonal cavity (9) that provides windows (11, 12) for a blocking ball (14) and a latching ball (13).

40. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 39, wherein the diameter of the latching ball (13) is smaller than the diameter of the blocking ball (14).

41. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 24, wherein the shank (3) can be completely removed from the grip cavity (4) when a stop (A) has been deactivated.

42. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 39, wherein the actuating member (6) has the form of a sleeve, and the actuating sleeve (6), as it is being displaced out of its locking position, encounters a perceptible resistance after it has reached the release position of the latching ball (13) but before it has reached the release position of the blocking ball (14).

43. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 42, wherein the resistance is audibly overcome.

44. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 43, wherein the resistance is provided by a collar (34) of the actuating sleeve (6), which collar moves onto a circlip (32) located in a groove (33) in a bush (7) which defines the cavity (4).

45. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 44, wherein the actuating sleeve (6) has to be rotated in order to overcome the resistance.

46. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 44, wherein the bush (7) which defines the cavity (4) forms a connecting link (35) in which a pin (36) engages, the pin being fixed to the grip.

47. (new) Screwing tool according to claim 31, wherein the boundary edge (30) is an inclined boundary edge.